

Special edition 2010

Energy Cities

INFO

City life in transition:
Towards a high
quality of life for all

20 years of Energy Cities
20 years of passion



20 years of Energy Cities
20 years of passion



EDITORIAL

1990-2010: Twenty: coming of age



Energy Cities turns 20. Twenty is a special age in a person's life; it is also a special milestone in the life of Energy Cities.

When we look back on the past, we realise that we had to be pretty naive or utterly reckless to embark on such an adventure in 1990, when oil was a cheap commodity, climate change a new issue and the role of cities still at an embryonic stage! Perhaps it was our excellent capacity for anticipation that enabled us to detect the first signs of the deep changes that were to drastically affect the whole world, or the strong determination of a handful of cities and people. It is the prerogative of youth to be daring!

On reaching twenty and taking stock, we see: one thousand cities from around thirty countries, yet with a dash of fantasy; a network that combines utopia and realism, strategy and pragmatism, vision and action. An association that has developed many varied partnerships, both private and associative, based on openness, transparency, trust and respect.

But at twenty, we are mainly looking to the future. We are aware of new responsibilities to match the ever greater challenges. We foresee deep changes over the next twenty years. We know that cities have to prepare for their necessary energy transition and that it is the mission of a network like Energy Cities to help them through this; by continuing to innovate, with the maturity of adulthood and the enthusiasm of youth!

Eckart Würzner

President of Energy Cities / Mayor of Heidelberg

Our vision for tomorrow: The low energy city with a high quality of life for all

Our cities will have to use less energy, use it better and use renewable energy at a much larger scale. This is necessary not only to meet climate change targets but also to reduce energy vulnerability in an uncertain world. This has, therefore, much to do with securing our long term energy supply.

Far from heralding a future of frustration and privation, pioneers are already testifying to experiencing better quality of life, new jobs and reduced energy poverty, innovation and improved education. The low energy city with a high quality of life for all meets all the above objectives. All form the backbone of the forthcoming EU 2020 Strategy.

Despite this, many day-to-day decisions are still a long way from transforming those desires into reality. Energy Cities, along with all its partners, has the ambition and strength to offer concrete examples – through the dedication of its members – to demonstrate that a change of direction on the ground is within the realms of the possible.

The Board of Directors' Who's Who

Energy Cities is a network of innovators – and so is its Board of Directors, elected every two years by the General Assembly. It is comprised of 11 elected people from leading European cities in the field of sustainable energy policy. The Board members oversee all activities of the network, provide input from the field and plan for the future.



Eckart Würzner
Mayor,
Heidelberg (Germany)
*President
of Energy Cities*



Denis Baupin
Deputy Mayor,
Paris (France)
*Vice-President
and Treasurer*



Zbigniew Michniowski
Deputy Mayor,
Bielsko-Biala (Poland)
*Vice-President
of Energy Cities*



Lian Merkx
Deputy Mayor,
Delft
(The Netherlands)
Member



George Scripcaru
Mayor,
Brasov (Romania)
*Vice-President
of Energy Cities*



Juan Luis Sánchez de Muniáin
Deputy Mayor,
Pamplona (Spain)
Member



Sarah Russell
Councillor,
Leicester City Council
(United Kingdom)
*Vice-President
of Energy Cities*



Eva Avossa
Deputy Mayor,
Salerno (Italy)
Member



Alan Coleman
Councillor,
Cork County Council
(Ireland)
*Vice-President
of Energy Cities*



Bo Frank
Mayor,
Växjö (Sweden)
Member



Pekka Sauri
Deputy Mayor,
Helsinki (Finland)
*Vice-President
of Energy Cities*

Energy Cities Board in March 2010

A network of cities, a plethora of information and ideas

In a society where informative news sources are multiplying, where energy and climate have become buzzwords in every sector, Energy Cities is keeping its finger on the pulse.

Timely, targeted information for our members

Knowing our members' needs on energy and climate issues,

- We monitor energy news relevant to our member cities,
- We carefully select information for them, and
- We tailor and distribute it in a reader-friendly format.

Innovative communication means:

- Promoting our members' actions: over 500 best practices are available on-line,
- Fostering exchange between committed cities: Energy Cities' Flickr, Facebook, Netvibes, Youtube, Twitter for day-to-day networking, etc.
- Analysing trends in urban planning, energy and climate: Energy Cities INFO magazine sent to over 3,000 local elected representatives as well as press clippings, e-newsletters and mailing lists for breaking news, etc.



The Europeanisation of local authorities

Miriam Eisermann (Energy Cities) met Kristine Kern from Wageningen University to find out more about transitions at the local level.

Dr. Kern, how has the role of local authorities changed?



In recent years, much has been made of the growing 'multi-level' and 'network' character of European governance. In our research, we focus on one variant of such governing processes, the transnational networking of local authorities. Transnational city networks are a particularly interesting subject of investigation because they have a long tradition dating back to the 13th century in the High Middle Ages (e.g. the Hanseatic

League) and are an increasingly prominent feature of European governance. These networks have three defining characteristics: First, member cities are autonomous and free to join or leave. Second, because they appear to be non-hierarchical, horizontal and polycentric, such networks are often characterised as a form of self-governance. Third, decisions taken within the network are directly implemented by its members.

According to your research, how are the interrelations between the European and the local level changing?

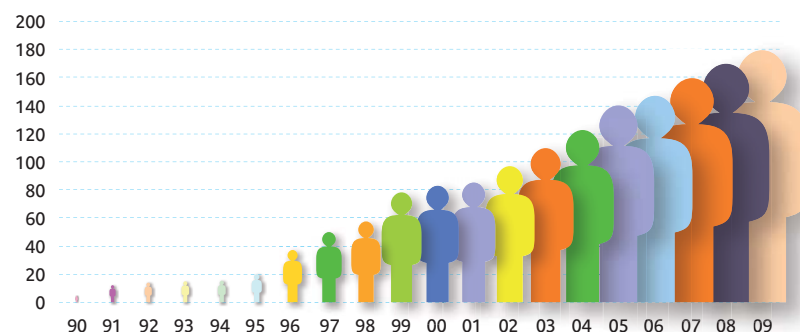
The initiatives of cities have been an essential part of EU climate governance from the outset. Leading cities such as Munich, London, Stockholm and Rotterdam have become active players in the EU multi-level system and have developed far more ambitious goals than their national governments and the European Union. In the area of climate change policy, three different types of urban-level Europeanisation can be distinguished.

The first type, hierarchical Europeanisation, which has long shaped the debate among scholars and practitioners, emphasizes the role of cities as implementers of EU legislation and the top-down relationship between the European, national, and local levels. The second type, co-operative Europeanisation, can be regarded as a counter-effect of hierarchical Europeanisation, which can lead to direct co-operation between EU institutions and cities (such as the EU Commission's "Covenant of Mayors"). The third type, horizontal Europeanisation, is based on the various tools developed by cities to facilitate learning from experience and best-practice transfer among cities, in particular through transnational city networks (such as Energy Cities).

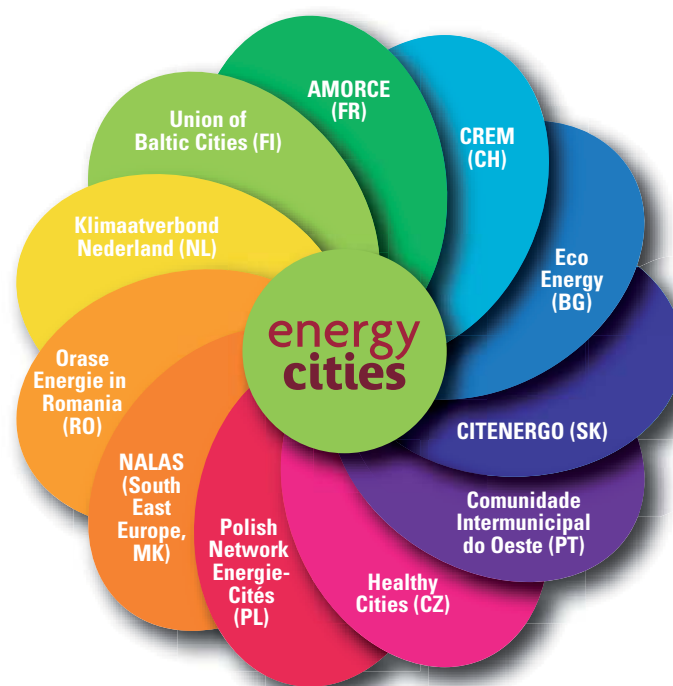
Kristine Kern is a participant in Energy Cities' IMAGINE initiative. She is co-author of several articles on multi-level climate governance in the EU, for example the article "Cities, Europeanization and Multi-level Governance: Governing Climate Change through Transnational Municipal Networks", published 2009 together with Harriet Bulkeley in the Journal of Common Market Studies.

1,000 members, a constant and dynamic growth of the network

Energy Cities is a city network of 200 individual member cities from all over Europe.



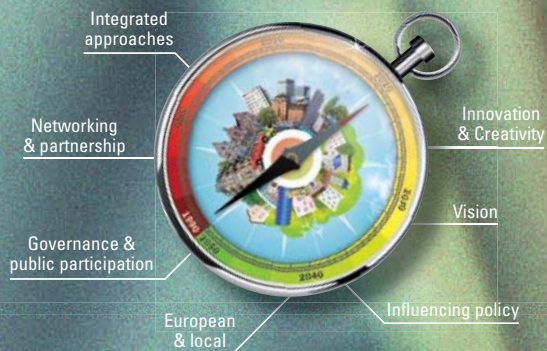
Several city associations dedicated, amongst other things, to sustainable energy policies joined Energy Cities as collective members.



Experience in European projects

Energy Cities has a great deal of experience in setting up and implementing projects. In 2010, the network is involved in 20 European projects, campaigns and initiatives as a leader or partner. This allows close co-operation on specific topics with around 2,000 cities and more than 60 public, private and associative partners. Each project contributes to providing cities with new ideas and concrete instruments to reach their objectives. They may concern the transport or building sectors, the involvement of citizens, the internal municipal organisation or all three. The projects are like a compass guiding European cities.

ALL OUR PROJECTS PUT EMPHASIS ON:



20 years of Energy Cities
20 years of passion

eMission possible in Växjö: 0% fossil fuel, 100% quality of life

The fact that 84% of Växjö's (Sweden) heat requirements are covered by biomass shows that it is possible to achieve ambitious energy and climate targets whilst stimulating the local economy, the money spent on energy being injected locally, thus reinforcing territorial cohesion. It also shows that a national energy and carbon tax can make what seemed out of reach possible.

In the mid 1990's, the city of Växjö, a member of Energy Cities, decided to phase out the use of fossil fuels to combat climate change and boost the local economy. Its objective was to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 70% by 2025. The use of renewable energy and the adoption of clean transport measures earned Växjö the title of "greenest" European city in 2000 and 2007. Växjö provides its citizens and local businesses with heat and electricity. 84% of the heat supplied comes from renewable energy sources, essentially wood. More than one third of electricity needs are covered by biomass, wind and sun energy. The city also boasts the highest wood-framed buildings in the world. And with more than half of its energy generated from renewable sources, Växjö is a pioneer city which already has a number of followers!



When neighbourhoods reinvent the city: a look at Freiburg

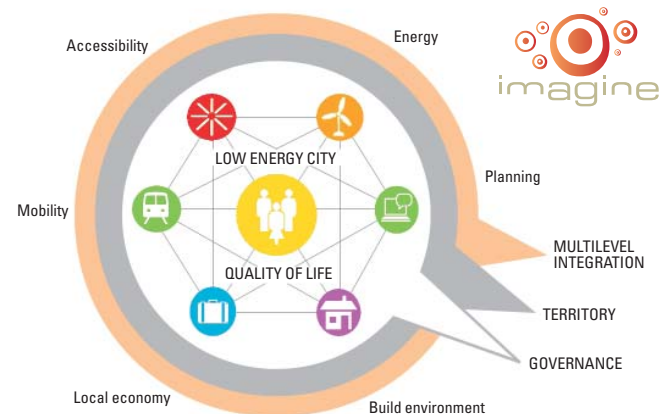


Looking at some of the new neighbourhoods is a source of inspiration in itself. They give an idea of what a city operating on the same principles – proximity, multi-functionality and conviviality – would be like. Let us take the example of Freiburg im Breisgau:

in its car-free neighbourhoods Rieselfeld and Vauban, all the services we need on a daily basis can be accessed on foot or by bike and children can play to their hearts' content in re-vegetated streets. One of the many eco-neighbourhoods that were created in Europe in the last 20 years, Vauban has a tram service and features a number of "passive" standard buildings where heating costs are limited to 10 euros per month, and even some "positive energy" buildings.

Germany's solar capital city started reducing its energy use and emissions of pollutants thirty years ago. Thanks to its extensive solar policy that encompasses all stages from research to manufacturing and installation, over 700 jobs have been created in this sector in just 10 years!

Is it a dream? An exception? With its spectacular results in the transport, housing and town planning sectors, Freiburg attracts visitors from all over Europe who now know that it is never too late to follow its example! Energy Cities takes pride in having Freiburg amongst its members!



The elements of a low energy city with a positive impact on quality of life through employment, sustainable growth, competitiveness, health and safety.

The Covenant of Mayors makes way for massive changes

The European Union adopted its Energy & Climate Package mid-December 2008. Eight weeks later, in February 2009, 350 Mayors from European cities officially joined the Covenant of Mayors by committing to go beyond the objectives of EU energy policy in terms of reduction in CO₂ emissions. Their numbers rose to over 1500 in April 2010.

Such voluntary commitment of local decision-makers to supporting -and sharing- a European policy is without precedent in the history of the European Union. Movements at this scale are usually set up to protest against EU policies, not to approve them. With the Covenant of Mayors, it is quite the opposite!

The fact that so many European mayors have signed the Covenant of Mayors, thus launching a movement that was massively followed in a very short space of time, is a great sign of encouragement.

The Mayors, of which many are members of Energy Cities, are committed to preparing and implementing a Sustainable Energy Action Plan in liaison with local players and citizens. Before setting priorities and measuring the results obtained, signatory cities first collect information on the amount of energy used in their territories, on its origin and various uses, as well as on CO₂ emissions. They then have two years after signing the Covenant in which to submit a progress report showing the results of the measures implemented.

At European level, the Covenant of Mayors is the reference initiative for institutions, cities, businesses and all stakeholders in this area. After the failure of Copenhagen, this initiative opens the way to new policies at all levels. And this is just the beginning!

Since its birth, Energy Cities has been working for a clear recognition of the role of local authorities in the field of energy. Through their commitments, Mayors have created the appropriate context to get support and encouragement from EU institutions and many stakeholders. Energy Cities, as co-ordinator of the Covenant of Mayors Office and one of its officially recognised Supporting Structures, will remain a strong and active supporter of this initiative!

► www.eumayors.eu

Energy Cities pays homage to Andris Piebalgs, European Commissioner for Energy until 2010. Without his commitment the Covenant of Mayors would never have received such a reception at the Commission. Without doubt, his successor Mr. Günther Oettinger, former Minister-President of the Land of Bade-Wuerttemberg (the cradle of many pioneering cities), will continue this work in close collaboration with his colleagues.



Andris Piebalgs, EU Energy Commissioner, and Gérard Magnin, executive director of Energy Cities, during the launching of the Covenant of Mayors end of January 2008

Mr. Gabor Demszky, Mayor of Budapest, Member of Energy Cities

"The participation of local and regional governments is indispensable in the fight against climate change. Budapest will make every effort to achieve the Covenant's objectives in the most developed region of Hungary. In past years, it has strived to take co-ordinated energy actions. In 2007, we created the position of chief energy co-ordinator in the Mayor's Office, and implemented a number of energy rationalization programmes, which we will be able to rely on and continue in the future under the aegis of the Covenant."



EU 2020 Strategy: cities must be given their rightful place, now!

In order to get out of the crisis, the EU is defining a strategy for 2020. The European Commission is proposing five measurable EU targets for 2020 for the following areas:

- employment,
- research and innovation,
- climate change and energy,
- education,
- combating poverty.

They will steer the process and be transformed into national targets. While showing the way, they will also be indicators for success.

Climate change and energy are closely linked to the four other areas. That is why they must be treated in an integrated way in our cities. The Commission's proposal meets Energy Cities' expectations, but the paper ignores the local level... How many statements praising the role of cities are we going to have to put up with whilst cities are still ignored in strategic documents?

Energy Cities' members and their local sustainable energy actions

Águeda (PT)

Research and innovation in lighting

Almada (PT)

Local climate change strategy

AMORCE (FR)

Heating and cooling district systems

Anderlecht (BE)

Rational use of energy in schools

Angers Loire Métropole (FR)

Bilan Carbone® diagnostic

Antibes Juan-les-pins (FR)

Energy efficiency in the service sector

Apeldoorn (NL)

Fossil fuel free, without nuclear power, in 2020

Arc-de-Seine (FR)

Local funding for inhabitants

Ardennes / Local energy agency (FR)

Energy conservation and renewables

Artois (CA)

Municipal support to renewable energies

Aube/ SDEA (FR)

Development of small hydro electricity

Aveiro (PT)

Solar PV

Barcelona / Local Energy Agency (ES)

Urban Ecology for planning

Barreiro (PT)

Local Energy Agency

Bayonne (FR)

Charter for Citizen Participation

Besançon (FR)

Cit'ergie-eea® label, energy efficiency and wood energy plan

Besançon / CA (FR)

Environmental approach of business parks' urban planning

Bielsko-Biała (PL)

Co-funding ecological heat sources for private households

Bistri a (RO)

A Local Energy Forum to improve municipal energy management

Bordeaux (FR)

Local Agenda 21

Bordeaux / CU (FR)

Infrared aerial thermography

20 years of Energy Cities
20 years of passion

Bordeaux / Local Energy Agency (FR)

Energy efficiency in buildings

Bourgogne / Region (FR)

A plan for low energy buildings

Brasov (RO)

Local regulation on energy performance in buildings

Brest Métropole Océane (FR)

A grouped purchase of a tramway

Brussels (BE)

Action on real estate for high energy and environmental performance in buildings

Brussels Capital (BE)

The "Energy challenge"

Bucarest (RO)

Thermal rehabilitation of 270 blocks of flats

Budapest (HU)

2008 European Mobility Week Award

Cacak (CS)

Modern plant for distance heating connecting all residential blocks

Carpi (IT)

Sustainable transport

Cascais / Local energy agency (PT)

Watt Busters : Energy diagnosis in the domestic sector

Caserta Province (IT)

Energy efficiency and renewables in provincial buildings and equipment

Castelnau-le-Lez (FR)

Setting an example in its own building stock

Chalon-sur-Saône (FR)

The "Privileges" program against climate change

Changé (FR)

Urban local plan

Châtenay-Malabry (FR)

Local Agenda 21

Christchurch (NZ)

Use of landfill gas and cogeneration



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The private car, still an almost total monopoly?

Excerpt from the White Paper of 2001: "European transport policy for 2010: time to decide", COM(2001) 370

"The big problem that urban authorities will have to resolve, sooner than might be thought, is that of traffic management, and in particular the role of the private car in large urban centres... The lack of an integrated policy approach to town planning and transport is allowing the private car an almost total monopoly".

The four-wheel myth

They are crazy, those Europeans, travelling far to go to work, school, shops, the cinema... We are in the year 2010. Europe's streets are entirely occupied by cars... well, not entirely. An increasing number of foresighted cities are setting up new schemes.

Almost 10 years after the Commission's White Paper on European transport (see box), most cities are still designed around cars. The introduction to the Action Plan on Urban Mobility adopted at the end of 2009 by the European Commission assesses that "Urban mobility is of growing concern to citizens. Nine out of ten EU citizens believe that the traffic situation in their area should be improved."

The 20 actions put forward by the European Commission in this Action Plan for reducing car use and fostering alternative ways of transport will not be enough to change the situation drastically. Only a consequent integration of mobility into urban planning can bring the expected change.

Fortunately, we can see that the four-wheel myth of unlimited freedom is unravelling. Clever cities are searching and creating new forms of mobility. Energy Cities members have demonstrated that, if we want to organise mobility in a sustainable and accessible way, we first need to start by reducing the need to travel through clever spatial and urban planning.

Since its existence, the network has been involved in various mobility initiatives: SMILE, Bypad, e-Atomium, as well as the European Mobility Week... Focusing on different key actions, the central message of each project was and is always the same: The car is by far not the only option to reach everyday public and private services. Other attractive and permanent alternatives exist!

► **Energy Cities coordinates the European Mobility Week website since the year 2000: www.mobilityweek.org**

They like their bike



The bike is staging a comeback in cities where it had been completely abandoned in the past such as Paris, Lyon or Sevilla. This is a sign that, even though at different levels, it is possible to reconcile sustainable mobility, the sharing of public space, physical activity and health.

Next stop: sustainability!



In the 50s, many local authorities in France and Switzerland destroyed their tramway networks because they were considered to be an obstacle for cars that were synonyms of freedom! Now, Energy Cities members are building tramways again or extending their existing networks in order to avoid the circulation of cars and make cities the best places for living again. However, some local authorities are abandoning their installations. Might the bad experiences from the past be useful for the present... and the future!

A cyclists' paradise!



Odense is known as the bicycle capital. Since 1979, the municipality has worked relentlessly towards saving even more energy, with the constant aim of improving the quality of life of its residents.

In the Danish city with 185,000 inhabitants, everything is centred on the bike: more than 500 km of wide and safe cycling lanes! Cyclists have right of way in traffic, green waves exist as well as an annual bicycle fair.

In the last ten years, the number of journeys made on bikes which was already quite high has increased by 50% as a result of the excellent cycling facilities. The number of accidents involving cyclists has decreased by 20%! More cyclists obviously make car drivers more attentive!

Riding a bicycle has become so pleasant and convenient that 2 inhabitants out of 3 have no car at all! Intelligent management of both energy and transport systems has made Odense a pleasant city to live in.

1997

■ Energy Cities network present in the world wide web with its first website
■ Kyoto protocol is initiated – but will need 7 more years to be ratified.

1998

■ Energy Cities' Annual Rendezvous in Barcelona talks about the role of local authorities in a future liberalised energy market

1999

■ Energy Cities opens its Brussels office
■ Eleven member states of the European Union launch a single currency, the Euro.
■ The world's population reaches six billion.

Brest and Dijon: Great minds think alike!

Two tramway projects, one purchase order

We have good news and excellent news. Good news first: Brest and Dijon, two French Energy Cities members, are extending their tramway lines! And now, the excellent news: for the purchase of the trains they have decided to pool together.

The grouped order of 52 tramway trains for an amount of 106 million Euros allows the investment to be rationalised. Thanks to this cooperation, the two cities have saved close to 35 million Euros.

Brest has bought twenty trains. Further 32 trains are meant for Dijon which foresees 20 km of tramway lines by 2013. This is the very first time that French local authorities cooperate to realise economies in the framework of such a contract. Cooperation instead of competition – this is the positive spirit that other European cities could and should adopt for their own projects.



The way ahead: Tailor-made travelling to work

Thousands of European citizens are offered tailor-made travel plans as well as the possibility to test the advantages of public transport – thanks to the European Ad Personam project, coordinated by the city of Modena (Italy). Seven European pilot cities have taken up the challenge to promote local public transport at large scale for work-related travels in the framework of the innovative direct marketing programme.

Further European medium-sized cities or transport companies wishing to increase the market share of public transports can follow this approach by participating in the Ad Personam Campaign, a European extension of the above mentioned pilot project, coordinated by Energy Cities.

Ad Personam pilot cities: Albacete, Baia Mare, Besançon, Funchal, Heraklion, Lancaster and Modena

► For further information:
www.marketingpublictransport.eu



Why is it called a "direct marketing" programme ?

The Ad Personam project is establishing personal communication and individual relationships with the involved citizens. Each of them receives an individual tailor-made travel plan for his travels to and from work.

2000

- Energy Cities starts the 'renewable millennium' with its 10th Anniversary
- Energy Cities becomes coordinator of the European Mobility Week website

2001

- Together with 8 national energy agencies, Energy Cities launches the PENELOPE project (PENELOPE = Promoting Energy Efficiency to Local Organisations through dissemination Partnerships in Europe)
- Launch of REST (Renewable Energy and Sustainable Tourism) to lower the carbon dioxide emissions of buildings within the hotel and guesthouse sector
- The RES Directive takes effect: Energy Cities agrees with the 12% objective for renewable energies by 2010 but requests that RES and energy management are to be taken into account simultaneously.
- September 11 attacks

From watermelon to redcurrant cities: a new age for town planning

First comes the girl or boyfriend, a car, a dog and... as soon as possible, a cute little family house in the suburbs. STOP! Is that really the scenario most of us dream of?

Not all city dwellers dream of a detached house in the suburbs. But all those who have experienced urban life have tried to cut themselves off the town, the less wealthy having to move the farthest away, thus falling into the trap of ever increasing petrol prices. Having said that, not everybody lives – or would like to live – in town; there would not be enough room anyway!

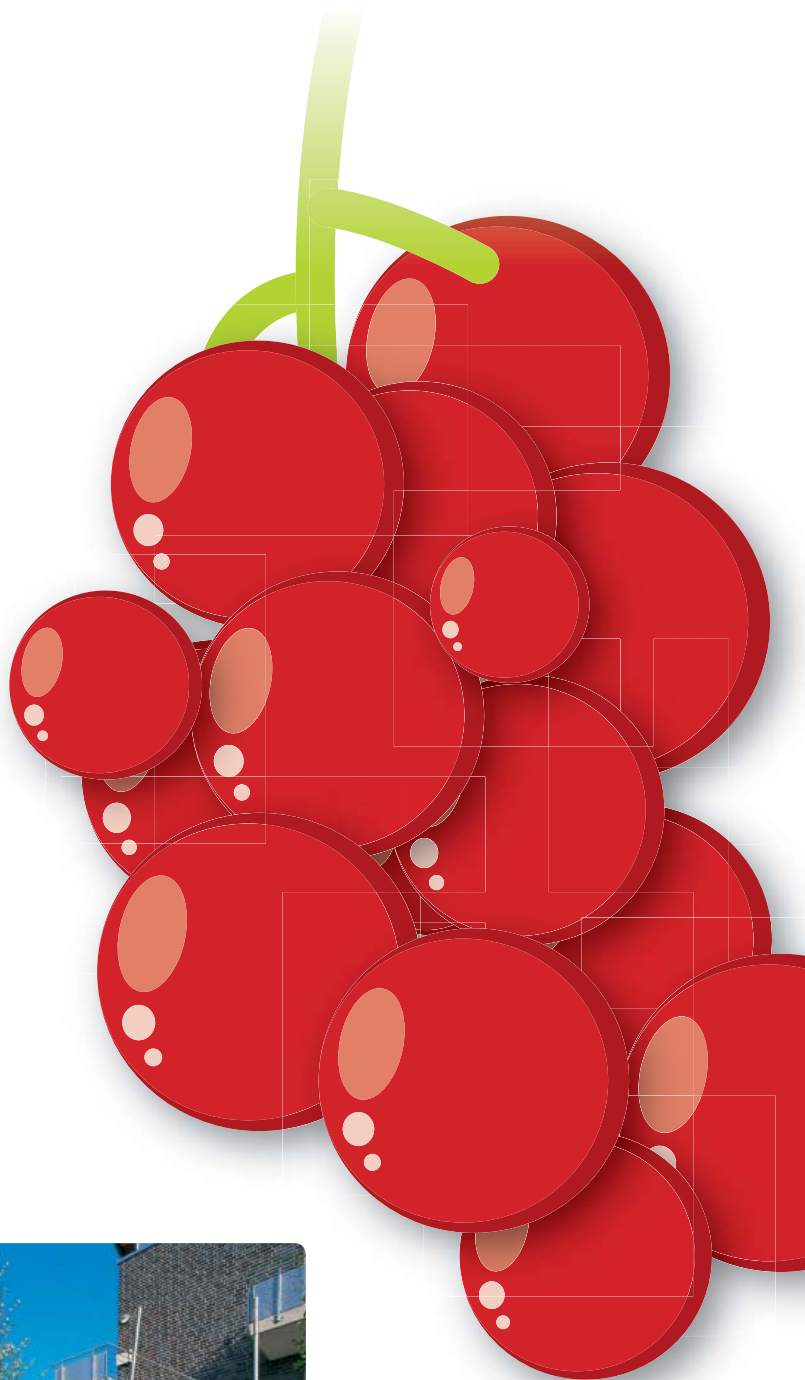
So why not imagine a “redcurrant” rather than a “watermelon” organisation for urban and periurban areas. The watermelon city grows in a concentric way, losing density as we move away from the centre and offering virtually no services to the inhabitants on its outskirts because they are too scattered. The redcurrant city is structured into a network, a bunch of berries connected by public transport, including in its peri-urban area. Each berry is dense and provides public and private services as well as soft modes of transport. Such an organisation makes it possible to live in closer connection with nature, provided that working and leisure areas are easily accessible by public transport.

As the future is uncertain, we must opt for the organisation that will make our cities and their inhabitants less vulnerable from an energy point of view. This calls for town-planning approaches that go well beyond the conventional municipal organisation and adopt a vision for at least the whole urban area! Where would you prefer to live, in a watermelon or a redcurrant city?

➤ Further information:
“Urban sprawl in Europe - The ignored challenge”
by the European Environment Agency (EEA)
www.eea.europa.eu

What is urban sprawl?

It is the unplanned, uncontrolled spread of urban development into areas adjoining the edge of a city. A city is sprawling when the rate of built-up areas exceeds the one of population growth.



Munich: the compact city



Despite a steadily growing population – a trend that should continue over the coming decades although national observations show a downward trend – Munich has decided to keep its citizens in a densified, more compact, more functional and greener urban centre.

This was made possible thanks to the “Munich perspective”, a set of guidelines and recommendations developed in 1998 that is reassessed every two years to take account of local, national and European changes. In addition to the economic, cultural and social aspects, this urban strategy lays the emphasis on green areas (they increased by 10% between 1998 and 2008), efficient public transport (including 1,200 km of cycling facilities and 70 km of tramway) as well as on buildings’ energy efficiency and district heating.

Concerning this latter point, the “Energy Savings Concept for 1,000 buildings” programme launched in 1998 has improved energy efficiency in public buildings by 50% and reduced annual CO₂ emissions by 13%.

Although the city has already set itself the objective of reducing CO₂ emissions by 50% by 2030 (compared to 1990 levels), a survey carried out in 2009 by Siemens and the Wuppertal Institute shows that Munich could achieve 90% reduction by 2050 with today’s technology, whilst still increasing the quality of life of its citizens.

Eau de Genève : A long-lasting fragrance

Geneva’s energy policy has a fresh, but long-lasting fragrance. With its “Geneva-Lake-Nations” (GLN) Project, the Swiss city has demonstrated that resources can be found within easy reach, they just need to be put to use. Lake Geneva has always been part of the scenery, but it is only recently that this Energy Cities member started using the water from its famous lake to provide international institutions’ buildings with natural air-conditioning. Geneva has also set a target of 100% renewable energy by 2050 for its public buildings. This smells like innovation...



Heerlen: the renewal of a city

In the former mining city of Heerlen, Netherlands, much has changed in the last 20 years.

With the shift of the political agenda towards sustainable development, the city has found a new identity in geothermal energy. Today, with the first mine water power station of the world, it is demonstrating how the flooded old coal mines can be turned into sources of new renewable energy.

Since 2008, warm and cold water from the mine tunnels is pumped up and used for central heating and cooling in 440 new houses, on 57,000 m² of non residential new buildings and 84,500 m² of non residential existing buildings. Estimated CO₂ reduction: 55%.

CITENERGO (SK)

Bringing Slovak energy cities together

Clermont-Ferrand (FR)

The path of renewable energy

Comunidade Intermunicipal do Oeste (PT)

A common approach for energy efficiency

Cork County (IE)

Low energy renewal of Cork County Hall - one of Ireland's tallest buildings

CREM (CH)

Scientific and technical support to local authorities for energy efficiency, use of renewable and reduction of CO₂ emissions

Delft (NL)

More comfort, less CO₂

Dijon (FR)

A grouped purchase of a tramway

Dublin (IE)

An ambitious Action Plan on Energy for a more sustainable community

Dunkerque / CU (FR)

«Energy Reflex» local forums

Echirolles (FR)

Cit'ergie-eea® Label, exemplary energy and transportation municipal policy

Eco Energy (BG)

Networking for energy efficient local policies and capacity building

EECU (UA)

Networking for energy efficient local policies and capacity building

Egaleo (GR)

Energy monitoring in municipal facilities and buildings

Essonne / CG (FR)

Composting at school

Evian-les-Bains (FR)

Infrared aerial thermography



Figueres (ES)
Creating a global sustainable transport system

Fontenay-le-Comte (FR)
Electric bikes for civil servants

Franche-Comté / Region (FR)
LA21 and low consumption buildings

Frankfurt-am-Main (DE)
City of Passive Houses

Freiburg-im-Breisgau (DE)
Green city

Funchal (PT)
Regional Energy Agency

Gaziantep (TR)
First local climate plan in Turkey

Genappe (BE)
Energy in urban renovation

Geneva (CH)
100% renewables in 2050

Gijón (ES)
More than 60 km of cycle routes in the city

Gödöllő (HU)
Energy-efficient refurbishment of multi-residential buildings

Grand Dole (FR)
Shared Energy Advice

Grand Lyon (FR)
Climate diagnosis

Grand Nancy (FR)
Awareness raising for a lower domestic energy consumption

Greater Thessaloniki (GR)
Renewable energy

Grenoble (FR)
Thermal renovation of buildings

Grenoble Alpes Métropole (FR)
Energy and Climate Territorial Plan

Guimaraes (PT)
Solar PV in schools

Healthy Cities (CZ)
Boosting local sustainable development in Czech cities

Heerlen (NL)
Minewater: new energy from old mines

Heidelberg (DE)
Combating Climate Change since 20 years

Helsinki (FI)
Improving Energy Efficiency of Heating, Ventilation and Air-Conditioning systems

Heraklion (GR)
Marketing Public Transport

Illkirch-Graffenstaden (FR)
2008 Urban Planning Trophy

Ivanic-Grad (HR)
Creation of the first Eco-kindergarten in Croatia

Ivano-Frankivsk (UA)
Awareness raising

Kaunas (LT)
Setting up of a local energy management unit

Kirklees (GB)
Use of renewables and fight against fuel poverty

Cities from Central and Eastern Europe: reaping the benefits of 20 years of energy management

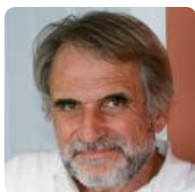
EU energy goals are common to all Member States, but the starting points are completely different. Post-communist countries, in particular, have to build upon a past in which energy efficiency was an ignored subject. Since the 90s, several initiatives coordinated by Energy Cities have introduced "Easterners" and "Westerners" to one another, breaking down the wall between the "Old" and the "New" Member States. Projects such as RUSE, BISE and MODEL, involving hundreds of local authorities, act as a bridge, transferring knowledge, ideas and convictions in both directions. So, how has the situation changed in new Member States over the last 20 years as far as local sustainable energy development is concerned?



"Avoiding the errors of the past"

Gérard Magnin, Executive Director of Energy Cities, has been promoting local sustainable energy policies in Eastern and Central parts of Europe since the end of the Soviet era.

"The challenge for new Member States and candidate countries is to build and develop energy efficiency measures upon a past in which the priority was on supply and not on demand. With energy consumption being so deeply anchored in culture, it is not easy to accept the idea that we can improve the quality of life by using less energy. Energy is life! Using less energy can only lead to frustration! But that is wrong and a number of Eastern local authorities are already on the right track: they are following a more energy sustainable "model", the one to which Western countries are approaching, not the one from the past. This way they can avoid making the same costly mistakes again. Step by step, the perception has changed for local decision makers who are starting to take their new role in terms of energy seriously."



"Real changes are taking place within a very short historical period"

Zdravko Genchev is the Executive Director of EcoEnergy. This Bulgarian Municipal Energy Efficiency network is one of Energy Cities' collective members.

"While at the central (governmental) level energy efficiency is often promoted verbally at local level (in municipalities), this subject is an integral part of the efforts for survival. For example, when in 2004 the first Energy Efficiency Act was approved in Bulgaria, by which local energy planning was made mandatory for every municipality, about 40 Bulgarian municipalities already had their own energy plans. It may be said that the experience and initiative of the local authorities were and continue to be the decisive driving power for the development of a modern legislative framework concerning energy efficiency.

In the early 1990's, the majority of the energy efficiency projects were not bankable and financial resources were too costly. For that reason a handful of enthusiasts tried in vain to convince the mayors of the benefits of energy efficiency. They almost begged them to host some sporadic attractive grant-based projects and programmes. Successful implementations were exceptions rather than practice. In recent years the picture has undergone a radical change and local authorities have become the driving force behind these efforts in the public sector. As a consequence of increased energy prices and the drop in the prices of materials and equipment related to energy efficiency, the majority of energy efficiency projects have become cost-effective, attracting banks (prior to the beginning of the global financial crisis), energy services companies, traders and consultants. Even individual households have joined the race with their private money or through bank loans. This very real change took place within a very short historical period and created a unique energy efficiency market. Although the energy efficiency market has solid grounds for development in the majority of the developed European states, it still needs solid domestic and international support in the new Member States.

There is no doubt that the EU-12 countries are undergoing development phases similar to those undergone by the EU-15 in the past. However, certain significant differences in the pace and effectiveness of the actions are also to be seen. For instance, changes in the legislation of the EU-12 countries are made under pressure from the European institutions and build on the lessons learned from such amendments in the EU-15 states. This creates conditions for accelerating change and for avoiding errors made in the past."

– 43 pilot cities cannot imagine being without energy managers anymore – since their participation in the MODEL project!
www.energymodel.eu

– Structural Funds and the New Member States: A promising friendship!
 Energy Cities' on-line dossier:
www.energie-cites.eu/-Our-Dossiers



Uniting people with an energy and climate plan

Since 2007, Energy Cities has been facilitating and moderating an Internet discussion list with the support of the French Agency for the Environment and Energy Management ADEME to promote networking on local authorities' French Energy and Climate Plans.

The list has a three-fold objective:

- to unite people with an Energy & Climate Plan approach in their municipality or considering setting up such an approach
- to freely exchange local authorities' practices and concerns,
- to prepare participative workshops designed to best meet municipalities' expectations.

Participants can ask any questions they want and reactivity is exceptional! Each subscriber to the list receives all the questions and answers.

Since 12 years, Energy Cities also organises the event 'Assises Nationales de l'Energie et du Climat des Collectivités territoriales'. It is the most important event in France on energy and climate issues with about 1,000 participants.

◉ **An on-line file on Energy and Climate Plans complements this networking aspect. It can be consulted on: www.energie-cites.eu/-Dossiers,356- (only in French).**

2005

- The first national BISE forums take place in New Member States, Candidate Countries, the West Balkan and Ukraine to discuss issues of local management
- Kaunas is awarded the eea® label as the first Baltic and Eastern European municipality

2006

- Energy Cities launches the IMAGINE foresight open platform that will develop further, with a wide range of partners the "low energy city with a high quality of life for all" concept.
- EU Action Plan for Energy Efficiency published
- The Stern report highlights the economic benefits of early action against climate change

Cities in transition



CLERMONT-FERRAND



Inventing tomorrow: City life in transition

Photo series - Part I

The challenge of European cities is to invent today a sustainable tomorrow.

This series of pictures witnesses this transition, which, for a number of committed cities, has already started a long time ago. Cars have made room for buses (sometimes electric!), bikes, trams and pedestrians. Buildings are better insulated. Concrete has been replaced by green space. District heating has largely improved the quality of air. And there is even more to come in the future...



HELSINKI



FIGUERAS



LIEGE



MULHOUSE



Meaningful partnerships to rethink the city

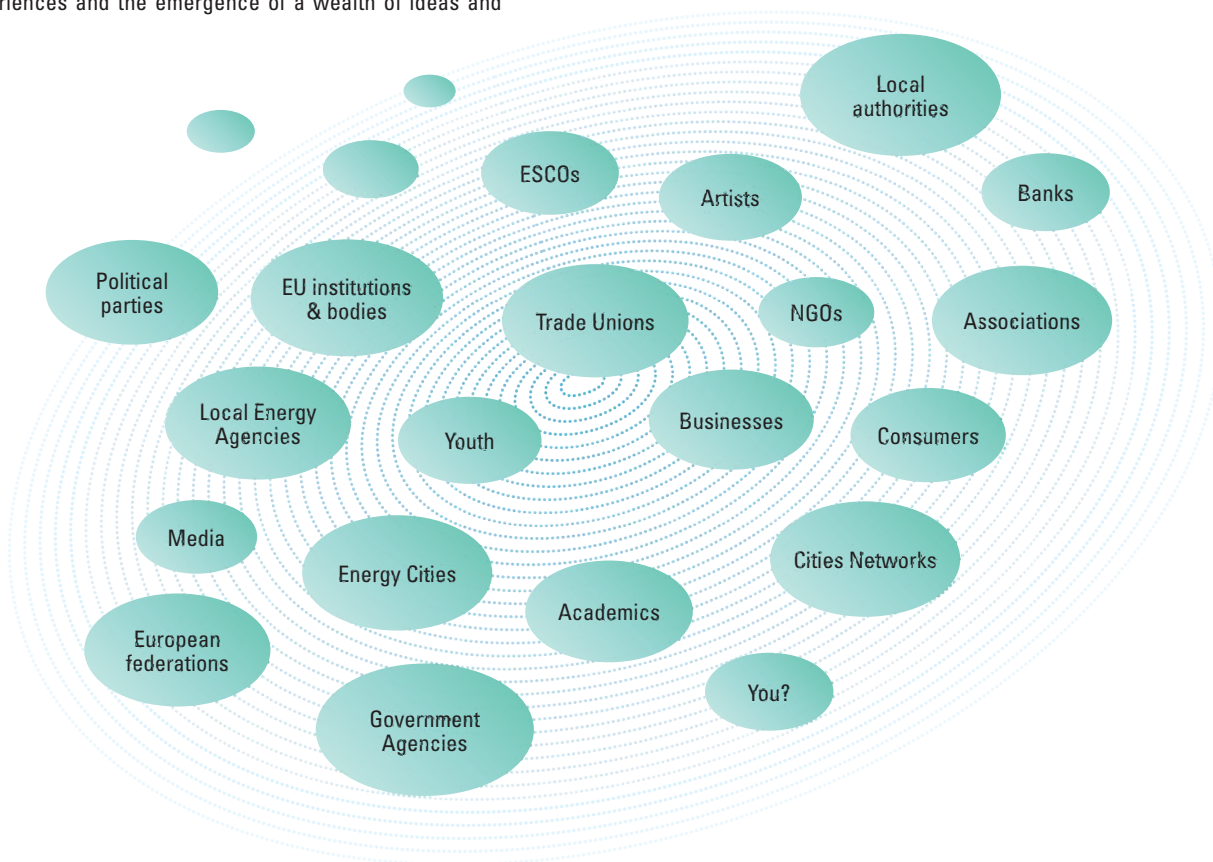
Energy Cities could not survive if it was an inward-looking organisation. Its *raison d'être* is to work in partnership in order to grow stronger, to compare and share analyses, to coordinate actions, to widen its field of influence, to encompass other players.

Henry Ford used to say: *"Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success"*, without knowing that this would one day become an efficient motto for taking up the new challenges we are facing today. Energy Cities' philosophy has been based on networking at all levels for 20 years. Closely working with others on the same topic enables the exchange of experiences and the emergence of a wealth of ideas and solutions.

Governance based on a partnership with various actors is needed to

- Bring short-term decisions in line with medium and long-term decisions,
- Make local, national, European and international policies converge,
- Catalyse the policies and behaviours of a multitude of public and private players in the same common direction.

► To see the list of all the local authorities that make Energy Cities' networking a success: www.energie-cites.eu



Klimaatverbond (NL)

«Energieke Scholen» : save energy and ensure a better indoor air quality

Kocevje (SI)

Setting up energy counseling office

Komotini (GR)

Promotion of the use of alternative forms of energy supply

Kotka (FI)

First waste-to-energy power plant in Finland

Lausanne (CH)

Solar exchange

Le Havre (FR)

Education on energy savings in schools

Leicester (UK)

280 sites with intelligent metering

Les Mureaux (FR)

Energy performance of public buildings

Liège (BE)

International expo 2017: inventing a new sustainable way of life

Liévin (FR)

More green spaces in the inner city

Lille (FR)

Buses powered by biogas from the wastewater treatment plant

Limoges Métropole (FR)

Energy and Climate plan

London Borough of Southwark (GB)

Targeting 80% of CO₂ reduction until 2050

London Borough of Sutton (GB)

On the way to "One Planet Sutton"

Lons-le-Saunier / CC (FR)

Wood energy and energy performance of public buildings

Maine et Loire / CG (FR)

Energy savings thanks to the refurbishment of buildings

Malaga / Energy Agency (ES)

An ambitious municipal energy optimisation plan

20 years of Energy Cities
20 years of passion

Get the family together

Energy Cities' Annual Rendezvous can be called a family meeting. To be precise: a giant family meeting. This is the time when our members gather from all four corners of Europe to talk about their various projects, explain what is new in their cities since they last met and consult peers for solutions. As members of the same, ambitious (growing!) family, they enjoy coming together, taking 2-3 days out of the everyday rush of operational tasks, to redefine priorities. Conferences, interactive forums, panel discussions, communication breaks - there is no better way of designing Europe's energy future together.

After Cork (2008), Brussels (2009) and Salerno in 2010, Zagreb will be the next chance to experience the special atmosphere of Energy Cities' Rendezvous. And until then, do not forget to use peer power during IMAGINE seminars, Energy Cities study tours, in on-line discussion lists, etc.



Energy Cities – the trusted voice of Europe's local authorities in Brussels

From the beginning, Energy Cities has been a credible and trusted advocate of local authorities promoting European sustainable energy policy. The association has been primarily active in five core policy fields: energy efficiency, renewable energies, climate mitigation and adaptation, regional policies and financing.

Influencing policy making

Assisting and influencing the policy making activities of DGENER (former DGTREN) and DGREGIO, Energy Cities has regularly contributed to public consultations and formed opinions on key pieces of legislation, such as the Energy Efficiency Action Plan (EEAP) or the Energy Performance in Buildings Directive (EPBD), thus achieving a better understanding and recognition of the role of local authorities in meeting Europe's energy and climate objectives. Among many others, the 2008 launch of the Covenant of Mayors (9th Action set out in the EEAP) has been a long awaited, clear success of such a lobbying process as well as the recognition of voluntary schemes, such as Display for the implementation of the EPBD.

Strategic partnerships

For the sake of a more powerful bottom-up voice, the association has established strategic partnerships with relevant groups of MEPs of the ITRE, REGI and Environmental Committees of the European Parliament and actively contributes to the work of the URBAN Intergroup and the Committee of the Regions. A strategic co-operation with EUFORES (a group of MEPs driving for better RES policies) and other key stakeholders via the Energy Efficiency Watch platform has allowed Energie-Cites to follow up respectively on the implementation of national energy efficiency and renewable action plans.

Funding for cities

Regional policies and funding are central to the development of sustainable energy and territorial cohesion. Teaming up with CECODHAS, the European umbrella of social housing associations, Friends of the Earth and other national partners and thematic associations, Energy Cities has been catalysing change for a better use of structural funds for sustainable energies at local level. Economic regeneration showing the way out of the crisis should start locally, by creating local jobs and increasing local energy security. This is why Energy Cities, with its network partners, has also lobbied for a 500 million Euros allocation for Covenant of Mayors signatories, especially for supporting local energy and climate agencies from the European Recovery Package. The association has also defended a more transparent distribution of European funding serving the real interests of local authorities and their associations, especially those established in Central and Eastern Europe.

Climate Roadmap

Energy Cities, alongside its network allies actively contributes to the Local Government Climate Roadmap Bali-Poznan-Copenhagen and will continue to encourage global agreement and to foster the recognition of the role of local authorities in climate mitigation.

20 years of Energy Cities
20 years of passion

Malmö (SE)

Towards a zero carbon environment without affecting comfort or lifestyle

Marseille (FR)

Education in eco-citizenship

Martigny (CH)

Energy performance of public buildings

Maurepas (FR)

Solar panels on public facilities

Metz (FR)

A tramway to reconsider mobility

Metz Metropole (FR)

Sustainable neighborhoods

Milton Keynes (GB)

Carbon neutrality for all new development sites

Modena (IT)

Local energy forum

Moissac (FR)

Energy efficiency in buildings

Montbéliard / CA (FR)

The «Damassine», a low consumption building to raise population's awareness

Montmélian (FR)

Cit'ergie-eea® label

Montpellier (FR)

Infrared aerial thermography

Montreuil (FR)

A 200 hectares sustainable district

Moura (PT)

Solar PV policy

Mulhouse / CA (FR)

Tackling climate change through a territorial climate plan

Munich (DE)

Compact, urban and green

NALAS (MK)

Task Force on Energy Efficiency: energy challenges in South East Europe

Nanterre (FR)

Energy and climate territorial plan

Nantes (FR)

Mobile city, sustainable city

Nantes Métropole (FR)

MétrOcéane: an Integrated Fare System for public transport

Naples (IT)

Energy Efficient & alternative vehicles

Nevers (FR)

Citizens' involvement

Newcastle Upon Tyne (GB)

Ambitious Climate Change Strategy and Action plan

The Lisbon Treaty: Welcome to territory and energy

The coming into force of the Lisbon Treaty in December 2009 has brought two novelties:

- Energy is now a competence shared with Member States.
- Territorial Cohesion has been added to economic and social cohesion. This means that all EU policies will have to be examined from a territorial angle, that is, from the angle of our cities.

For a network such as Energy Cities, which is very concerned with the relationship between Energy and Territories, or Energy and Cities, this is an institutional breakthrough we had been expecting and requesting for a long time. In principle, the two newcomers to the Lisbon Treaty should facilitate the integration of the role of local authorities in European policies. But a lot remains to be invented in this area!

A revolution in Regional Policy?

The Commissioner for Regional Policy, Johannes Hahn has announced major changes. In a keynote speech in Saragossa in February 2010, he said: "How to make operational the notion of territorial cohesion. We need to develop an inclusive urban policy for a healthy and wealthy Europe, focusing for instance on investment in transport and energy saving in cities." Is it a consequence of the Lisbon Treaty? A practical result of the engagement of local authorities in the Covenant of Mayors? Or is it a combination of both?

Whatever the reason, the Commissioner's announcement quite a revolution. There is no European urban policy and the EU regional policy has only paid limited attention to sustainable energy issues so far.

Preparation of the post-2013 cohesion policy will condition the road we will follow to 2020 and Energie-Cités intends to actively contribute to it.

Local energy agencies: a helping hand for local authorities

More than 50% of Energy Cities member cities have created a local energy agency; not only because we have provided them with comprehensive assistance in setting them up, but also because these cities quickly saw it as a helping hand to concretely implement their sustainable energy strategies. Many of the cities' achievements are due to the competent work of their local energy agencies bringing together all private, associative and public local bodies. More of these agencies are urgently needed in Europe if we are to better involve stakeholders and citizens in sustainable energy issues, and consequently reach the EU energy and climate objectives.

Funding the creation of local energy and climate agencies would encourage committed local authorities and would clearly highlight the European Commission's message of "We will back your commitment!" With 5 people each at the beginning, 2,500 multidisciplinary staff who are currently lacking, would be directly available in the field.

Bravo Brasov

Brasov, one of the first Romanian municipalities to join Agenda 21, has been very successful in past years thanks to important actors in sustainable development such as ABMEE, the Local Energy Management Agency. Thanks to the commitment and determination of its agency, Brasov defined its municipal energy strategy early on and started implementing it right away. The city involved its local stakeholders by raising awareness through competitions, ecological movies and municipal intelligent energy days. It is also one of Energy Cities' pioneering members from the New Member States.

By the way, ABMEE was "twinned" with the energy agency of Oeiras (Portugal), with Grenoble as the mentor agency of this network.





Happiness



Encouragement



Euphoria



Amazement



Conviction



Pride



Imagination



Passion



Commitment



Pleasure



Enthusiasm



Generosity



Creativity



Fascination



Vision



Conviviality



Satisfaction



Verve



Cooperation





Nièvre-Energie (FR)
Improving energy efficiency

Niort (FR)
Citizens' participation

Niš (CS)
Energy efficient street lighting

Nyíregyháza (HU)
Improving energy efficiency in housing

Odense (DK)
Improving the daily use of bicycles

Oeiras (PT)
Awareness raising on mobility, energy and environment

Orase energie (RO)
Management of Domains Related to Energy in Local Authorities: the MODEL project

Padua (IT)
Energy Saving and Efficiency Interventions in the Public Administration

Pamplona (ES)
Solar PV in schools

Paris (FR)
An energy and climate territorial plan to reduce GHG emissions by 75% by 2050

Parma (IT)
Pedestrian & Cycling policy

Pau-Pyrénées (FR)
Local Agenda 21

Plaine Commune (FR)
Urban and popular ecology festival

Poissy (FR)
«Les arbres du partage» : artistic communication with recycled plastic bottles

Polish Network Energie-Cités (PL)
Supporting local authorities' actions for energy efficiency

Pordenone (IT)
Awareness raising initiatives

Frankfurt am Main entering a new age of housing

A member city on its way to becoming the passive house capital of Europe

Frankfurt am Main is Europe's top runner with more than 100,000 m² of passive house constructions made up of private houses, several schools, kindergartens and the office buildings for some prominent banks. Long-standing efforts and courageous, radical political decisions are the reason for these Green buildings' successes. The passive house standard has been compulsory for new municipal buildings since 2006. In 2008, the Frankfurt city government integrated passive houses in the urban residential buildings guidelines. The energy demand from new and modern bank buildings, for example, is now 4-10 times lower.

The city's focus on passive houses is part of a much broader ambitious climate protection policy. In Frankfurt am Main more than 50% of electricity is produced via three large and ten decentralised district heating networks and more than 120 combined heat and power plants (CHP) in buildings, two biogas and one wood fired CHP plant in the Megawatt-range. Thus 1 million tonnes of CO₂ are saved per year.

The City of Frankfurt am Main is also the first German city to initiate a funding programme for every kilowatt-hour of electricity saved by citizens.

Frankfurt's municipal energy agency is the key to success with:

- Organisation of workshops and forums for potential investors, architects and planners,
- Participation in subsidy programmes for passive houses,
- Hands-on experiences via information tours, visits of passive houses ("Klimatours").



What are passive houses?

They are low-energy buildings, constructed to exacting environmental standards, employing safe and sustainable materials. They are cleaner, safer and cheaper to heat or cool than traditional buildings. The passive house concept is applicable to any type of building, and most buildings can be retro-fitted to passive house standards.

➤ Extract from The Passive House Centre (IE)

<http://thepassivehousecentre.ie/content/passive-houses-are-active-way-create-energy-efficient-future>

Virtuoso Energy Cities members thanks to CONCERTO funding

CONCERTO is a programme of the European Commission with a total of 58 communities participating in 22 projects. It is conducted by their political desire to demonstrating the benefits of integrating renewable energy sources together with energy efficiency techniques through a sustainable energy management system.

Energy Cities is actively supporting its 11 member cities involved in different CONCERTO projects: Act 2, SESAC etc. Each city chooses its own specific solutions for the highest possible level of self-supplied energy and a better quality of life. All projects are in line with the Covenant of Mayors' objectives and involve politicians, planners, energy service providers and citizens. The different actions focus on the integration of renewable energy sources and energy efficiency measures, eco-buildings, energy efficient building design and management, poly-generation, combined heat and power and district heating (ideally using bio-mass).

A vital virtuoso force comes from training, communication and awareness raising activities as well as intelligent management of demand.

► For further information: <http://concertoplus.eu>

Energy Cities members in CONCERTO: Nantes, Milton Keynes, Heerlen, Lyon, Delft, Grenoble, Växjö, Budapest and Geneva.

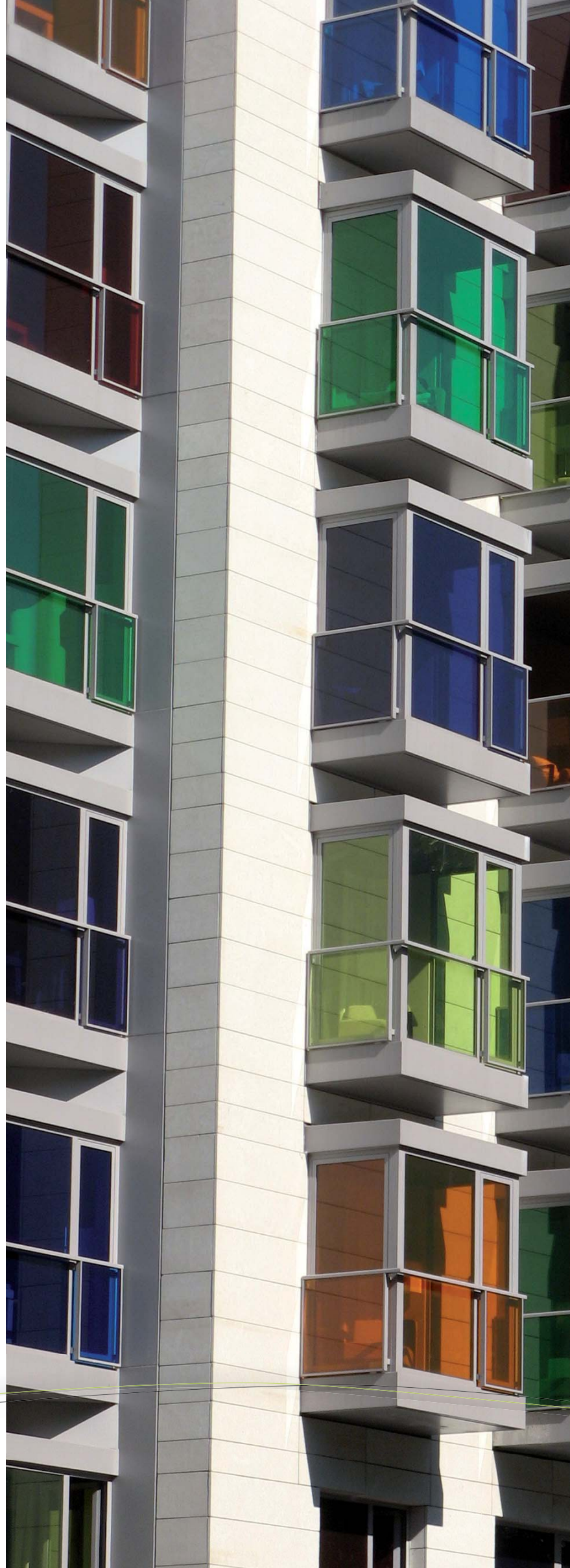


2011

■ The European Commission announces a special support for the creation of 500 new local energy and climate agencies.

2012

■ The 4th Covenant of Mayors Ceremony takes place simultaneously in the European Parliament and in all National Parliaments.
■ A global agreement on Climate Change is finally signed, opening new perspectives.





Pamplona: Schools selling photovoltaic solar energy to the grid

The Pamplona City Council began the "Net of Photovoltaic Schools" project through its Energy Agency in 2001. The aim of the project is to install solar photovoltaic (PV) panels on the roofs of schools throughout the Spanish city, for both educational purposes and to avoid CO₂ emissions. This idea adds another concrete dimension to the Display® activities that Pamplona has been carrying out for already many years. Interactive displays linked to the panels provide an excellent educational tool by enabling children to see the energy production of the panel in real time as well as information such as the total CO₂ emissions avoided.

All of the solar PV panels are connected to the public electricity grid, and the energy produced is sold to the distributors. The solar PV systems do not help the schools reduce their energy consumption, but in net terms reduce their CO₂ emissions. From 2004 to 2006 the panels have produced 63,473 kWh in total, which equates to 21,158 kWh each year. This figure is growing each year as more panels are installed. The total money saved over this three-year period is 26,000 Euros.

► Information: www.display-campaign.org/example651

Buildings ahead of the times

Fortunately, some hundreds of forward-looking local authorities did not wait for the transposition of the European Buildings Directive (EPBD) adopted in 2003. Instead, they joined the Display Campaign whose objective is to accelerate the Directive's implementation and provide European municipalities with the opportunity to take a strategic approach – and be one step ahead.

400 municipalities from Cork (Ireland) to Sofia (Bulgaria) and from Helsinki (Finland) to Almada (Portugal) are displaying the eye-catching posters on 12,000 buildings all around Europe. Municipalities proudly show their buildings' energy, CO₂ and water performances... and communicate simple actions and technical solutions for progressing towards Class A!

The changes foreseen in the revised EPBD show that Display is indeed ahead of the times.

► www.display-campaign.org



The Recast of the EU Buildings Directive in 2010 foresees:

- a common European certification for the energy performance of non-residential buildings should be introduced by 2012 at the latest,
- all buildings requiring heating or cooling be constructed in accordance with the nearly-zero energy standard from 2020 onwards.

2014

- Hundreds of member cities have created local revolving funds to support local actions.
- New European Cohesion Policy: the cities become a priority, besides the Regions; Cohesion Funds are granted only on condition that the beneficiary integrates the energy and climate package in all its projects!
- The EU emergency program for the insulation of existing buildings is launched: 20 million apartments are concerned this year!

2016

- 1st woman elected president of the USA
- 40% of new jobs are created within the green economy

Cities in transition



Inventing tomorrow: City life in transition

Photo series - Part II

Energy Cities' member cities are already preparing their futures. In defiance of financial and economic pressures, they are changing the direction of their energy policies - with foresight, cooperation and imagination! This second series of pictures witnesses the positive results of this strategy: visibly, city life is improving a lot.



Helsinki, soon a citizen-built city?

Finland will have to cut its CO₂ emissions by at least 60-80% by 2050. This is why the Helsinki Metropolitan Area climate plan for 2030 is looking to reduce the per capita carbon dioxide emissions by 39% of the 1990 level. This will mean reducing per capita emissions by about one third of the 2004 level by the year 2030.

As a member of Energy Cities and the first Finnish city to label its public buildings with the Display poster, the city of Helsinki, (one of four cities of the area) is already into new ways of thinking and doing to steer towards a sustainable future. 86% of Helsinki's buildings are already connected to the district heating system. Bottom-up decisions are the key and the signing of the Covenant of Mayors was one decisive step.

An international ideas competition in 2007 brought further fresh ideas for the future development of the region. "A city has to be created by a citizen living there", states the 2nd prize competition winning team of architects and researchers. The idea is that with a new urban strategic leadership, the city becomes self-built and moulded to its citizens' needs and dreams. A future Helsinki and the region would have multiple real centres thanks to a re-structured urban planning, management and land use policy.

Still a theory, the "towards city 2.0" idea is an idealistic concept. But it could one day become a new political guideline for the local political decision-makers of Helsinki – and why not also for other European cities.

➤ More on Helsinki in the Energy Cities database: www.energie-cites.eu/db/helsinki_579_en.pdf



Graphic taken from the Summary "Helsinki Metropolitan Area climate strategy to the year 2030" by YTV

2019

- More than 1500 member cities run for the European "Low Energy City with High Quality of Life for All" award. Evaluators are overloaded
- As foreseen by the Buildings' Directive, all new buildings consume as close as zero energy for heating; a very large number produces its own energy on-site

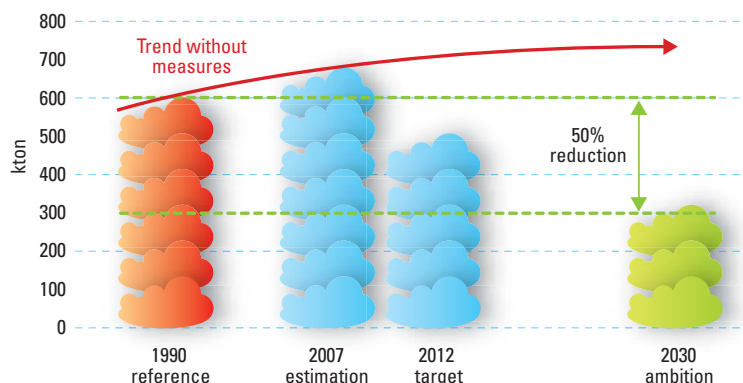
2020

- Energy Cities organises the 5th edition of its Annual Video Rendezvous with several hundreds of participants meeting and debating online
- In its press release, the European Council says: "thanks to the strong involvement of local and regional authorities, the EU energy and climate objectives have been reached this year"
- 2/3 of the Covenant of Mayors signatories have gone beyond expectations reaching 40% of CO₂ emission reductions compared to 1990
- The EU Council agrees on a common tax on fossil energy sources to reach the new EU 2040 objectives

A Sustainable Delft Dream Team for -50% CO₂

Who could better fit into the future official Sustainable Delft Dream Team than Delft's residents, businesses, social organisations and knowledge institutions? It is with these partners that the local authority of Delft wants to co-operate as regards the implementation of its updated Climate Plan (2008-2012). Its ambition for 2030: emit 50% less CO₂ compared to 1990, increase the share of renewable energy to 25% of the total energy consumption and use 50% less energy than in 1990.

"The route to a CO₂-neutral city is not straightforward, but is certainly achievable if we all focus on this goal together", says Lian Merx, Sustainability Councilor in Delft from 2006 to 2010.



Rennes Stakeholder Forum: I was there!

When Rennes (FR) invited its citizens to its Open Forum on "post-carbon Rennes" to imagine collective, "impacting and realistic" initiatives aimed at "drastically reducing" the city's CO₂ emissions, it experimented with new forms of governance. Sylvie Lacassagne, project manager at Energy Cities, participated in the event.

"I was fortunate enough to be one of the 120 participants (inhabitants, associations, private businesses and public institutions from the Rennes urban area) invited to attend a two-day forum on the following issue: "What collective, impacting and realistic measures can we imagine to drastically reduce CO₂ emissions in our city?".

This open space forum is an initiative of the City of Rennes, and more precisely of the Environment Mission, which received the support of progressive elected representatives. The forum is in line with the IMAGINE perspective and was organised after Rennes signed the Covenant of Mayors.

Open space is an approach for hosting creative meetings of 5 to 2,000 people to address important, complex and even antagonist issues. This approach, which is still underused in France, is based on a form of debate where creativity and co-construction are the master words. Participants, seated in a circle and then in small groups, prepare the agenda. The issues they have identified are discussed and priorities for action are put forward. These will be incorporated into the City's Energy and Climate Plan White Paper.

This organised chaos can be adapted and developed into a number of variant versions depending on the projects, stakes, expected results and, of course, stakeholders involved. Try this approach out in your territory, you will not regret it!"

► If you are interested in learning more about this interesting initiative or wish to follow Rennes' example: www.planclimat.rennes.fr



2023 ■ A European survey finds out that 20% of Europeans are selling own produced energy to their grid

2025 ■ The Eurostat mobility report: Cycling (incl. electric) and walking make up for more than 50% of urban trips in European local authorities (with a share of public transport of around 30-40%)
 ■ 60% of Europeans are subscribed to their car and bike sharing system to be used throughout the country
 ■ The IPCC report announces that thanks to common political efforts global warming will not exceed 2°C

Pori (FI)

Economic interest grouping of municipalities for wind farms

Prešov (SK)

Local energy plan favoring buildings refurbishment and renewables

Ptolemaida (GR)

Large scale district heating

Rathenow (DE)

Energy saving contracts in schools

Rennes (FR)

Open post-carbon forum

Rennes / CA (FR)

Local climate plan

Rijeka (HR)

ENERGO KID – energy efficiency education for children

Rimini (IT)

Solar Thermal Campaign

Rochefort (FR)

Urban energy planning

Roma (IT)

Low Energy Consumption Buildings

Saint-Nazaire (FR)

Urban local plan

Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines / CA(FR)

Low energy houses contest

Salerno (IT)

Play the game of saving

Salford (GB)

Urban planning for sustainable mobility

Sénart / SAN (FR)

A guidebook for the "Environmental performance of dwellings"

SIGEIF (FR)

Smart grid

Sintra (PT)

Citizen awareness raising

20 years of Energy Cities
20 years of passion

SIPPEREC (FR)

Energy management and the fight against fuel poverty

Skopje (MK)

Spreading a Bike Riding Culture

Sofia (BG)

Energy savings thanks to enthusiastic local energy forums

Strasbourg / CU (FR)

Towards the low consumption city

Stuttgart (DE)

Municipal Internal Contracting

Tampere (FI)

A vision and a plan toward carbon neutrality

Tarn / SDET (FR)

Energy efficiency of public lighting

Tata (HU)

Wood energy and district heating

Tourcoing (FR)

Education in environment

Udine (IT)

Energy certification of buildings

Ulm (DE)

Germany's Solar Champion

Umeå (SE)

Energy efficiency in buildings

Union of Baltic Cities (SE)

Cooperation and exchange of good practices

Utrecht (NL)

Towards carbon neutrality in 2030

Växjö (SE)

Fossil fuel free city

Vila Nova de Gaia (PT)

"Gaia Lighting" – Because tomorrow matters!

Wissembourg (FR)

Sustainable management of green spaces

Zagreb (HR)

Participation to the European Mobility Week with 32 local partners

Zaragoza (ES)

Local Agenda 21 and public transport

Zoetermeer (NL)

Distribution of a free energy box to 2,400 households

20 years of Energy Cities
20 years of passion

IMAGINE: visioning action, actioning vision

As Energy-Cities' R&D laboratory, IMAGINE aims to facilitate the transition towards "low-energy cities with high quality of life for all". The key question being posed is: "In a generation, what kind of city do we want to live in?" At the core of this work are cities' visions. Cities and territories need visions just as a ship needs a compass. Visions for a shared future! Visions that inspire action!

IMAGINE is an open platform involving a large panel of stakeholders using innovative and creative working methods. Businesses, local authorities, NGOs, European and national institutions - they all have a (somehow different) vision of the energy future of cities. IMAGINE allows them to confront and discuss their visions, and to take them into consideration to refine their own strategies. In that sense, the IMAGINE initiative is an instrument to anticipate change and inspire innovation.

The work touches upon a conceptual level during the IMAGINE seminars or IMAGINE thematic workshops and it becomes even more concrete through local IMAGINE processes and IMAGINE labelled events.

In short IMAGINE stands for

- Providing a toolbox to organise local participative processes.
- Enriching the reflections and strategies of social, institutional and economic actors at all levels, including, of course, local authorities.



One Leicester - shaping Britain's sustainable city

"One Leicester" is the title of the ambitious strategy that forms the foundations of the changes the council, and its partners, want to see in Leicester over the next 25 years.

It was developed after extensive consultation across the city and is being supported by all of the members of Leicester Partnership - the citywide group that represents the main public, private, voluntary and community organisations in Leicester, Vice-President of Energy Cities.

One Leicester contains seven key priorities that represent the major changes people want to see over the coming years:

- Investing in our children
- Planning for people not cars
- Reducing our carbon footprint
- Creating thriving, safe communities
- Improving wellbeing and health
- Talking up Leicester
- Investing in skills and enterprise.

➤ More information on Leicester's energy policy in Energy Cities' on-line database:
www.energie-cites.eu/cities/members_in_action_fr.php

New communication for a new energy behaviour

From: Miriam Eisermann
To: Joel Smith
Date: 10/07/2011
Subject: What a dream!

Hello my friend,

My evenings are fully booked now, with having a drink with friends in town, chatting on Facebook with those abroad and posting my latest energy savings on the Net. I have always been committed to reducing my carbon footprint, but things have changed since I can literally see what I have been saving in terms of energy and water. REVE d'Avenir (a dream of the future) is, for sure, not the only project in this field. A few clicks on the Internet are enough to see that interactive, participative energy projects are blossoming. New communication technologies are being widely used as one way of enhancing energy efficiency. But the real difference with this French-Swiss project, ongoing since January 2010, is that energy savings are collected by all local stakeholders, from the municipal administration to the local entrepreneur down to his wife and children. Whenever I connect, I am curious to see how the level of saved energy has risen, how much closer all our individual acts have brought us to the 3x20 objectives and how all this is gathering into one impressive power saving station. If you have time, click on www.3x20.org and drop us a line!

Greetings,
Miriam

ICT and energy efficiency

On-line tools allow for quick feedback, for do-it-yourself actions and for visibility. And this is what we need to make people change their behaviour, at home, at work, while travelling and shopping. ICT (Information and Communication Technologies) is not a panacea, but it can make energy and climate actions more fun. Energy Cities has been tapping into this potential for several years now and continues to innovate in this field, enabling cities and their stakeholders to work on common goals via social networking.

- Since 2003, the Display Campaign has provided local authorities with an on-line tool to show the energy performance of their buildings. Communicating visible results and developments has proved extremely encouraging for building users.
- The ENGAGE project, launched in 2010 by Energy Cities, aims to provide an efficient participative PR campaign strategy and an innovative, ready-to-use online tool for 12 pioneer cities from 12 different countries (all of them are member cities). They will mobilise their different municipal departments, stakeholders and citizens to jointly commit to and act towards the common 3x20 objectives.
- As a partner in the Smart e-buildings project, Energy Cities once again says, "yes we can". The project, co-ordinated by the European Renewable Energy Council, uses the latest e-campaigning techniques for a Europe-wide mobilisation campaign in the building sector. An interactive web portal linked to a large number of social networking sites informs and enables public authorities, citizens and the industry to reach the 3x20 objectives.

20 years of Energy Cities
20 years of passion



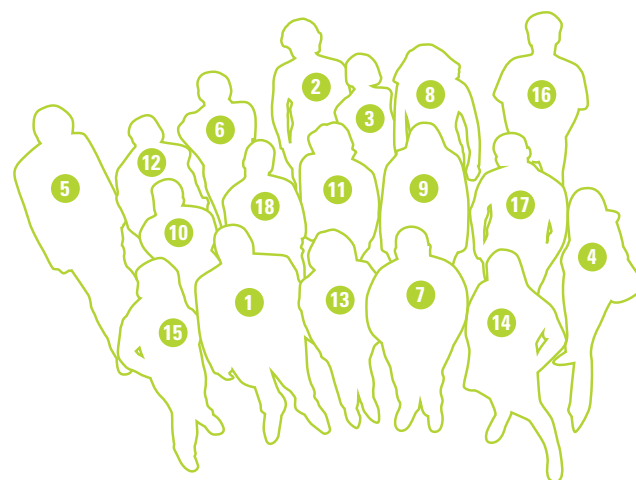


Your energy is our energy!



“My best souvenirs are those of the future”

Salvador Dali



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Energy Cities: Where Action & Vision meet

The association seeks to foster local sustainable energy policies in and with more than 1,000 local authorities throughout Europe. Our aims are to:

- Offer concrete tools to help cities achieve the European 3x20 energy and climate objectives, such as the Display Campaign.
- Create partnerships amongst various players, for example as part of the IMAGINE initiative, to design the energy future of our cities right now.
- Ensure the implementation of successful energy policies by helping cities access funding, setting up projects with peers and exchanging experiences during study tours.
- Make the network real by establishing contacts with colleagues from other cities - the experiences of our members are our main capital.
- Be a source of inspiration in providing innovative networking and brainstorming opportunities such as the Annual Rendezvous, seminars, workshops and study visits.
- Stimulate dialogue between the European and the local level via position papers, analyses and close relationships with European institutions.
- Establish a common energy culture in favour of high quality cities.



energycities

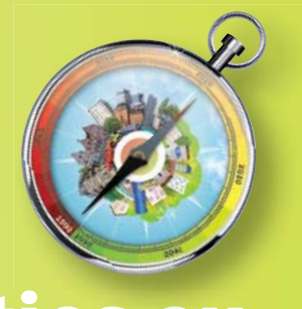
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